

I know that the administration is very happy with the Mueller report, and so are our Republican friends. This move by the Trump administration to take away healthcare will prove far more detrimental to the administration and the Republican Party than any gains they might have made by the issuance of Mr. Barr's letter. Mark my words. It is far more important to the American people—far more important to the American people—because it involves their lives and the lives of their families. The Trump administration is hurting them badly.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

Madam President, on another matter, today, Leader McConnell will follow through on one of his specialties, "gotcha" politics, by forcing a vote of the Republicans' version of the Green New Deal.

Make no mistake—Republicans want to force this political stunt to distract from the fact that they neither have a plan nor a sense of urgency to deal with the threat of climate change. With this exercise, the Republican majority has made a mockery of the legislative process. It is a political act, a political stunt.

Everyone here knows it is a stunt, including the majority leader himself, who will put something on the floor and then vote no. What is the point of that, other than showing how hypocritical this act is?

With this exercise, they have also elevated the issue in a way, I am sure, they never intended, and, for that, I want to thank them because now we are finally talking about climate change.

For 5 years, the leader hasn't brought one bill to the floor that will deal with the issue of climate change. He may not agree with what some people are for. What is his plan? What is his plan?

Leader McConnell and every Republican, with one exception, has refused to sponsor a resolution.

Leader McConnell has refused to answer these questions, which he has been repeatedly asked. One, is climate change real? Do you believe that, Leader McConnell? Do you believe that, Republican Members?

Two, climate change is caused by humans. Do you believe that? Say it. Come to the floor and do something about it.

And this is three: Congress must act on climate change. This is a simple resolution. Every Democrat is for it. Will Leader McConnell sign it? Will any other Republican sign it? No. It shows where the party is.

We are going to continue asking these questions over and over again because our Republican colleagues want to play a stunt and vote no on another bill, but they don't want to say what they are for.

The scientific consensus is clear. Disasters are getting stronger and stronger. The great irony here is that right after this bill goes down and the McConnell stunt bill goes down, we are going to vote on disaster relief.

Do you know what has made disaster relief so much more necessary and so much more expensive? Climate change. The warmer the air, the warmer the globe and the wilder the weather gets, as the people in Iowa, Nebraska, and Kansas have just experienced.

So this idea that we are voting for disaster relief after a stunt, a sham vote on climate change—and the Republican leader and the Republican Senators have nothing to say on climate change—reveals in bright lights their ostrichlike behavior, putting their head in the sand, ignoring reality, doing nothing about it, and playing games.

Every single Democrat and a few of our Republican colleagues have joined in the resolution that says these three simple things. We will not rest until we have most every Republican joining because the public is on our side, science is on our side, and the need to help protect America—farmers, urban dwellers, suburban dwellers—from the devastating changes that climate is bringing upon us is very real.

Let's stop the nonsense. Let's get serious. Our children's future depends upon it. Our planet depends upon it.

## MUELLER REPORT

Madam President, now there is one final matter. Yesterday, I came to the floor and asked unanimous consent on a very simple matter—that the report completed by Special Counsel Mueller and all of the corresponding evidence and documentation be made publicly available for the American people.

There was a request, above all, to achieve the greatest level of transparency possible into the very serious matters of Russian interference in our elections. Transparency—that is all we want.

I am hardly alone. It is the same resolution that passed the House unanimously, with the President's strongest defenders voting for it. They want transparency.

Why has Leader McConnell objected to making the report public? What in the world is he hiding? He got up and objected when we asked to make it public. If he had not gotten up, it would have passed.

President Trump has called for the report to be made public. So why is the leader, the Republican leader, blocking all attempts at transparency? There is no conceivable reason for the Mueller report to remain hidden from public view. It is a shame—a darn shame—that Leader McConnell thinks otherwise.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

## THE GREEN NEW DEAL

Mr. ROBERTS. Madam President, I thank you for your hard work on the sometimes powerful Senate Agriculture Committee. I would have liked to respond to the leader—but I know he is busy, and he is leaving the floor—just to say that I think all Republicans understand there is climate change,

and all Republicans know that human activity does contribute to it, and, yes, we ought to do something. The point I am trying to make here is we don't want to do the wrong thing and cause a great deal of disruption in the process.

I also thank Senator THUNE for allowing me to speak out of order. I know this is a hardship on his schedule, but he has been very kind to let this happen.

I thank the sponsors of the Green New Deal for enabling all Senators the opportunity to discuss the practical challenges this resolution actually presents. For me, as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, it allows me to discuss the real stewards of our land—our farmers, ranchers, growers—and how this legislation will affect them and their ability not only to feed this country but a troubled and hungry world as well.

Those of us who represent farm country are grateful for the opportunity to underscore something that too many take for granted. Farmers, ranchers, and growers in the United States now grow the safest, most affordable and abundant food supply in the world. As I just said, we know that it is a troubled and hungry world that needs farmers, ranchers, growers, and their protection to help feed and clothe the world's increasing population. Yes, and I think it will probably go longer than 12 years.

As chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, I am proud of our bipartisan record on behalf of American agriculture and, in turn, our record of respecting our Nation's natural resources. These things go hand in hand. Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle on the Agriculture Committee and those privileged to work in agriculture have always sought to grow and raise more, using as few resources as possible.

The men and women who make their living off the land have an imperative and keen interest in the responsible use and management of our natural resources. Show me a farmer who does not practice conservation or does not have access to precision agriculture or the latest technology, and I will show you a farmer who is really in trouble.

In short, within agriculture, there is nothing new with the Green New Deal. It calls for "working collaboratively with farmers, ranchers, and growers in the United States to eliminate pollution, greenhouse gases, and emissions from the agricultural sector as much as is technologically feasible"—that is the language—"by supporting family farming"—that is also in the language—"investing in sustainable farming and land use practices that increase soil health," and "building a more sustainable food system that ensures universal access to healthy food." That is in the resolution, the legislation over in the House.